

Good morning,

I am writing regarding Bill 175, which has come from the proposals of the Office of the Commissioner of Education. This bill includes language in support of a Seal of Biliteracy for high school students. The language in the bill has been changed since it was originally submitted by the Commissioner's office. The original wording called for proficiency in both English and at least one other language. The rewritten bill no longer includes the inclusion of English. The idea of having a seal of **BI**literacy it to be proficient in at least two languages. This bill no longer requires that students have proficiency in anything other than a single foreign language. With the change in this wording students who speak a language other than English at home would not qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy because their native language would not qualify as a foreign language, as it's their home language. Of the 14 other states that have also adopted the Seal of Biliteracy ALL of them require proficiency in both English and a language other than English.

As a teacher of foreign languages, I would hope that the inclusion of English be included to offer the most opportunities for ALL students to be able to demonstrate their proficiency in multiple languages.

Respectfully Submitted,
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